

House Republican Press Release

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D'Amelio Supports Efforts To Change Eminent Domain Laws



HARTFORD- State Representative Tony D'Amelio (R-Waterbury) today signed a petition calling for the House of Representatives to convene in special session, and take up the issue of eminent domain.

The petition, initiated by House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward (R-North Branford) has the dual purpose of instituting a moratorium against the seizure of private property by government entities for use in commercial and economic development purposes, and instituting fundamental changes in Connecticut's private property rights.

Last June the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 to authorize the City of New London to seize private residences by eminent domain to allow the city to begin development of a hotel and conference center.

"That decision by the Court has allowed for an abuse of the eminent domain powers granted to municipalities," said Representative D'Amelio. "We have an obligation to first halt the use of eminent domain in this state while we address the issue, and second; make important changes to our state laws to make certain that people in Connecticut should not have to fear the loss of their homes and property simply because the town they live in thinks they can make more money off their property through a commercial use."

House Republican legislators gathered today in front of the Hall of the House to call for the special session. They were joined by Susette Kelo, a defendant in the Supreme Court case who will lose her home if the law is not changed.

"Everyone who owns property needs to think about this," said Representative D'Amelio. "If this can happen to the New London residents, it can happen to you. There is a need to act on this, and act quickly."